

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method for coding a sequence of digitized images ~~with a plurality of macro blocks~~ in error-prone networks, said method comprising using a computer to perform the steps comprising:

for each image, coding only a portion of the image areas of that image a number of macro blocks of the images by a first intra-coding mode depending on a predetermined criteria;

coding a particular image area of a particular image ~~number of macro blocks of the images by a second intra-coding mode or~~ by an inter-coding mode, ~~wherein~~ including:

identifying a set of accessible reference images from which to select a motion vector for coding the particular image area by the inter-coding mode;

selecting a first image area of a first accessible reference image;

determining whether a second image area of a subsequent second accessible reference image that corresponds with the first image area was coded by the first intra-coding mode;

if the second image area was coded by the first intra-coding mode, removing the first reference image from the set of accessible reference images from which to select a motion vector;

selecting a motion vector ~~vectors for the macro blocks that are coded in the inter-coding mode are selected~~ from the ~~a~~ set of accessible reference images; and

using the selected motion vector for coding the particular image area by the inter-coding mode.

~~limiting the set of accessible reference images in such a way that referencing takes place from image areas that were not subject to the first intra-coding mode in a temporal subsequent image.~~

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the predetermined criteria for carrying out the coding in a first intra-coding mode are error robustness criteria with respect to an incorrect transmission of coded images.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the first intra-coding mode is executed at regular time intervals.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the first intra-coding mode is executed at random time intervals.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the step of limiting the set of accessible reference images further comprises the steps of:

selecting optimized motion vectors from a plurality of possible motion vectors for each inter-coding mode and for each accessible reference image;

determining a rate distortion movement compensation value for each of the optimized motion vectors; and

selecting motion vectors in accordance with a determined rate distortion movement compensation value.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein the step of limiting the set of accessible reference images further comprises the step of creating a limited number of inter-coding mode combinations and reference images, wherein combinations that were coded in a later image in a first intra-coding mode are removed.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 19, wherein the step of limiting the set of accessible reference images further comprises the step of forming a best combination based on the rate distortion.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 19, wherein the rate distortion is determined by processing an error rate to be expected when the coded images are transmitted.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein to determine the rate distortion criteria, the distortion of the pixel values contains the total of the quadratic differences between the pixel values before coding and the correspondingly decoded pixel values.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the distortion is estimated to determine the rate distortion criteria.